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New papers: CIA wanted short war

NEW YORK — The CIA warned the Defense Department in 1963 that a protracted war in Vietnam would sharply divide the American public, with an eventual loss of their support, according to documents published in the current National Review.

Such a divisive effect, the CIA said on another occasion, was the propaganda goal of Soviet Russia, which wanted the longest possible war for the United States in Southeast Asia, the magazine account said.

The conservative magazine, whose publisher is William Buckley Jr., published what it described as a 1963 CIA psychological assessment, favoring "Short Term Warfare" of 12 to 24 months in Vietnam.

National Review called the documents it published highly classified. It said they were leaked to the magazine, but did not say by whom. The magazine said they had not been among the Pentagon Papers published by The New York Times and other newspapers.